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Advisory Group on the United Nations
Code for Trade and Transport Locations

Report of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations Advisory Group on its first meeting

Summary

This report reflects the discussions and decisions of the first official United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) Advisory Group meeting, 30 November – 1 December 2017. It was presented and agreed upon at the end of the Advisory group meeting.

This document is submitted to the twenty-fourth UN/CEFACT Plenary for endorsement.

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I. Attendance

1. The United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) Advisory Group held its first meeting from 30 November to 1 December 2017.

2. The following countries were represented: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine. The following United Nations organizations participated in the meeting: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Universal Postal Union (UPU). The following intergovernmental organizations and private sector participants participated in the meeting: adidas AG, Bureau International des Containers (BIC), Cosco, EuroGate Container Terminals, GeoNames, Google Switzerland, GT Nexus, Hamburg Sud, Hapag-Lloyd, International Air Transport Association (IATA), IHS Markit, Maersk Line, MSC, Ostendi Suisse Shipping Guides Ltd., and SMDG.

3. The Acting Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Chair of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group delivered opening remarks, highlighting the importance of UN/LOCODE and the establishment of the Advisory Group. They also underlined the effective partnership between the public and private sector as well as the relevance of UN/LOCODE to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

II. Discussion on development issues

4. On the subject of data synchronization between the UN/LOCODE releases and user applications/databases, presentations were made by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), SMDG, and GT Nexus. The paperwork involved with Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) and the ambiguity of some of the elements related to UN/LOCODE leaves a lot of room for interpretation. It was stated that greater international consistency in interpretations and in the levels of granularity would be beneficial to all users. It was stressed that it is important to provide a clear definition of what is meant by "location." Some users do not have automatic data synchronization and only update their systems at the request of users.

5. On the subject of UN/LOCODE entries, the definitions provided for the functions in Recommendation 16 do not seem to be applied in a consistent manner. The official definitions of function 6 (inland clearance depot) would imply that these must be related to a customs procedure and authorization; function 1 (port) implies that it should only be for maritime ports; function 5 (postal exchange office) should only be for international mail processing centres and thus only approved by UPU; function 4 (airports) should perhaps be validated by either IATA, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) or both. It was pointed out that location names need to be as precise as possible; the problem of translated entries (code present several times with each translation of the name) can cause confusion. It was also noted that pending requests should be regularized as quickly as possible.

6. On the subject of data quality, the Focal Point of Cyprus pointed out the necessity for geographically correct entries with correct location names for locations that are relevant to (i.e. used regularly for) international trade. The need to address de facto locations outside the effective control of governments was pointed out. The question of who can make requests and how these requests are validated was brought up. It was suggested that, for retail purposes, it is very useful to have a UN/LOCODE which is a free and open standard, even for very small locations. Furthermore, many inconsistencies were underlined such as

function 1 (port) being used in inland locations, very small locations with no link to international trade with codes, and single locations with multiple codes. The UNECE secretariat pointed out the importance of Focal Points on this matter as they should be verifying content and correctness; the secretariat can only verify coherency of the rules.

7. On the subject of major changes in the releases, it was underlined that these, like the one of 2014, can cause major issues for the user community. It was emphasized that changing established codes should be avoided. Alternatively, advance notification of future changes (up to a year) was requested. Care should be taken to avoid recycling codes for different locations, which can have a major impact on users.

8. On the subject of which concept should be supported—point or area—presentations were offered from Hapag-Lloyd, GeoNames, Cosco and IATA. The principle of supporting "area" for a canal, for example, could be pertinent for the user community, especially for routing purposes. It was further suggested that port facilities should be treated as areas and that other related codes be used to identify container terminals or quays. However, if an "area" is supported, questions were raised as to how to delimit these: the area defined as circles, as polygons, as municipalities… In other location code use, metropolitan areas are used for pricing and scheduling purposes, but not for actual routing. There was also a request to establish a geolocation coordinate for all UN/LOCODEs, even when they are "areas" (not necessarily specific points).

9. The issue of child coding systems was presented with interventions from IMO, BIC and Portinfo. For two of these, UN/LOCODE is used as a base and a four-character extension (some child repositories are up to six) is used to identify legal entities for container transactions and provide more granularity on actual terminals within a port. It was underlined that complete contact details of the requestor of any code is linked to some of these child coding systems. The integration of information from UN/LOCODE publications was underlined as important in all cases. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to the user community to publish these child repositories—perhaps in a harmonized manner—with the official UN/LOCODE repository or at perhaps through a link out to their solutions. Cross-referencing to IATA, ICAO and IMO location codes was suggested as a benefit for users. A question was raised as to whether there should only be one entry for one place or if we should allow hierarchies.

III. Discussion on development issues

10. The establishment of a network of Focal Points has been discussed in the three previous UN/LOCODE meetings. This has prompted a proposal to revise the current data maintenance system and database. IHS Markit proposed an interactive system to request new UN/LOCODEs or revise existing ones; they proposed a more dynamic approach to changes and new requests so there could be publications throughout the year instead of only twice a year. The management of validation should also be automated if possible, instead of using Excel Spreadsheets.

11. The secretariat explained the work load of UN/LOCODE internally. As a result, a network of Focal Points has been put into place to assist in this process. However not all countries have a National Focal Point and not all FPs are actively contributing as of today. For this reason, the secretariat has requested ideas to improve the situation.

12. Several ways forward were suggested:

- Requesting a nominal fee to ensure submissions are serious and meaningful, installing discipline by the requestors;

- Require requestors to clarify and support their DMRs—indicate why they request a change or a new code (make the comment field obligatory);
- The nomination of a National Focal Point can also have a positive effect, such as progressively reduced numbers of DMRs;
- Crowdsource identification, having multiple stakeholders validate a port or location;
- If fees are put in place, people who participate in the process (present here and active in this group) should not be required to pay;
- Require requestors to pre-register before they can download to learn their use case—but keep the process free of charge;
- Study the possibility of having a donor provide or develop a new IT system for the secretariat free of charge which could be hosted on United Nations (UN) platforms and compliant to UN rules;
- Establish a group of experts (ideally a sufficiently large enough group to not always rely on the same people) to support Focal Points in validating new code requests and changes. This would require a lot of work twice a year when validation is being performed. Those who manage child repositories are very interested.

IV. Decisions of the Advisory Group and inputs to UN/CEFACT Programme of Work

13. The UN/LOCODE Advisory Group:

- Acknowledges the importance of UN/LOCODE as a free international standard with wide use in trade, transport and regulatory documents;
- Recognizes that the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group play an indispensable role in dealing with all important issues related to UN/LOCODE maintenance and development;
- Congratulates Ms. Sue Probert as the first chair of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group;
- Agrees that all decisions be made by consensus and reported to the next UN/CEFACT Plenary;
- Agrees that the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group be open for all stakeholders on a volunteer basis;
- Takes note, with appreciation, of the recent work undertaken by the UNECE secretariat;
- Takes further note that all members of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group be registered as UN/CEFACT experts and given access to the Collaborative UN/CEFACT Environment (CUE);
- Invites UN/CEFACT to revise the UNECE Recommendation 16 through the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process, taking into consideration the following elements (**Decision 17-01**):
    - Provide a clear definition of what the UN/LOCODE means, its scope and what granularity should be used;

- Provide clear guidance on all aspects of UN/LOCODE to eliminate areas of ambiguity (interpretation of what a location is, addition of new functions, definitions of functions, etc.);
- Set out how to register significant changes (what this means, if deletion should be allowed, what delay should be provided to allow the user community to prepare…);
- Define how DMRs should be announced and communicated (acknowledgement of receipt of DMR, acknowledgement once it has been accepted or rejected with the reasons…);
- Officially designate the use of "0" (zero) as a location that does not have an official function (function zero should not be combined with any other function). It could also be used to deprecate codes without deleting them from the list;
- Consider requiring the registration of those who request codes (for post-verifications or future questions);
- Consider how to share the history of DMRs;
- Determine how to standardize multilingual entries and aliases in an unambiguous way;
- Propose solutions for the reuse of UN/LOCODEs (in child repositories, for example) and how these could be identified and shared in the UN/LOCODE repository.

- Emphasizes the importance of UN/LOCODE Focal Points and encourages more governments to nominate National Focal Points (NFPs) to enhance the UN/LOCODE Focal Point Network **(Decision 17-02)**;
- Requests that the secretariat create a questionnaire (with Survey Monkey or other) to build consensus on some of the key points (**Decision 17-03**);
- Requests the UNECE secretariat to acknowledge child coding systems using the UN/LOCODE **(Decision 17-04)**;
- Requests the UNECE secretariat organize meetings for the Advisory Group on a regular basis, at least annually **(Decision 17-05)**;
- Welcomes the establishment of more National Focal Points and more key stakeholders to join the Advisory Group.

VI. Adoption of decisions and report

14. The UN/LOCODE Advisory Group adopted the decisions noted above and the report of the first meeting (Decision 17-06).

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Team of specialists on sustainable fisheries

Report of the first Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries

I. Introduction and attendance

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Fisheries held its first session on 29-30 January 2018. The session was attended by 80 delegates and experts representing national government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The following UNECE member states were represented: Georgia, Greece, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The following Non-UNECE member states participated in the meeting: Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Djibouti, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, and Viet Nam. The following United Nations (UN) Bodies and Organs participated in the meeting: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector participated: the Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND), CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society), FOCUS, Genoa Aquarium Foundation (FADG), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Polar Foundation (IPF), Marine Stewardship Council, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), South Centre, The Pew Trusts, World Wildlife Federation (WWF), the Federation of the Ukrainian Fish Industry Workers, and Conepe.

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II. Opening

2. The UNECE Executive Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming the establishment of UNECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and stressed its importance in supporting countries' efforts to achieve of Sustainable Development Goal 14 that commits humanity to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources. She mentioned that to help address growing concerns about the grave problem of overfishing by today's modern fishing fleets, UNECE with its United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (UN/CEFACT) has come up with a concrete solution: a global standard, which helps improve fisheries information management, and plays a key role in preventing overfishing and the collapse of global fish stocks. With this standard, Fishery Management Organizations around the world have, for the first time, a communication tool to automate the collection and dissemination of the fishery catch data needed for sustainable fishery management and for detecting and combatting IUU fishing. In addition, the development of a reliable, up-to-date database on fish catches will improve research in science-based fishery management. The standard, which is a UN global standard, was adopted in 2016 and has already come under the spotlight for its high acceptance rate among fishermen and traders. It is currently being used in all European Union (EU) member states and other countries across the globe.

3. The Minister Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the WTO also welcomed the creation of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and stressed the relevance of its work in the follow-up to the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference, which discussed approaches to subsidies provided to unsustainable fisheries. She emphasized the importance of such matters to The Netherlands, which they have demonstrated by supporting the ToS. The Representative added that its goals can be only be achieved by working together, and engaging all key stakeholders for sustainable fishery management.

4. The UN/CEFACT Domain Coordinator for the Agriculture, Agri-food and Fishery Domain recounted the UN/CEFACT Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) standard development process, whose objective is to promote and improve information exchange, develop and manage data and support scientific research on fishery. The project started as a small group initiative of EU member states and later developed into a UN/CEFACT project which engaged experts from all regions of the world, and made it a global standard. He highlighted the need to do more work to maintain, further develop and implement the standard and to assist all interested countries and relevant partners with its implementation (which is the purpose of the ToS). As an example of work to be done on the standard, he mentioned the need to address the issue of liability concerns for data use and sharing.

III. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 1)

5. The Agenda of the meeting was approved as proposed (*Decision 1*)

IV. Election of officers (Agenda Item 2)

6. Frans Van Diepen from The Netherlands was elected as chair of the ToS.

7. The Secretariat invited delegations to submit expression of interest for the roles of two Vice-Chairs, possibly by 12 February 2018 (*Decision 2*)

V. Introduction of experts (Agenda Item 3)

8. A *tour de table* was conducted for experts to introduce themselves. The main expectations of the participants were to learn more about the ToS and the UN/CEFACT FLUX standard; to get an understanding of the policy, regulatory, financial and technical requirements to use and implement it; and to understand its relationship to fisheries subsidies and IUU fishing.

VI. Reports from partner organizations (Agenda Item 4)

9. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development representative outlined his organization's work in support of SDG 14, particularly in relation to the implementation of targets 14.4 and 14.6, with a focus on strengthening capacity building and technical assistance for small–scale and artisanal fisheries. He summarized the outcomes of the 2017 UN OCEAN Conference. He regretted that the output of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference did not include a binding agreement on fisheries subsidies, and suggested possible alternative scenarios. The focus of the UN OCEAN Conference in July 2018 will be on the role of trade in seafood value chains.

10. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on its relevant work areas and pointed out its activities in: 1. the fight against IUU, in particular through the Global Record—a tool to increase transparency, and a single access point for information about vessels and activities related to users; 2. responsible supply chains and trade through traceability of fishery products in the areas of food safety (Codex), fisheries eco-labelling, and certification; 3. policymaking through trends monitoring, including the production of global fishery statistics and information, and the role of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) in setting fishery statistical standards. Since 2013, the FAO and UN/CEFACT have been working together, particularly in relation to vessels identification, history, licences and inspection, and they expressed their readiness to engage with the ToS in its future work.

11. The representative from the World Trade Organization mentioned that fish is the most traded food commodity worldwide. Developing countries do half of this trade, with the most recent growth coming mainly from aquaculture. He is also referred to the supporting legal framework for sustainable fisheries management and highlighted recent discussions in the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment on policy tools to combat IUU fishing, including catch certification schemes and traceability requirements. On the question of fisheries subsidies, he said that the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires had set a target of 2019 for completion of the negotiations. He emphasized the importance of increased transparency among WTO member states on IUU fishing, of non-discrimination and harmonization, paired with capacity building and technical assistance for developing countries, and referred to the importance of the work of the ToS in this area.

12. The United Nations Environment Programme presented the UNEP trade hub's three perspectives on trade: legal, biodiversity and economy. The trade hub advises countries on how to use trade to advance green economy, which contributes towards SDGs 14.4 and 14.6. Their work relates to fisheries subsidies through research on the impact of subsidies, the impact on resources of overfishing, and country level studies. Regarding UN/CEFACT FLUX, the importance of relating this standard to subsidies negotiations, the improvement of data collection for determining illegal fishing, the reduction of unreported activities, and the facilitation of the elimination of IUU fishing subsidies was emphasized.

13. Several countries' representatives discussed the technical and political issues of subsidies to IUU fishing (Bangladesh, Serbia). To move the negotiations forward, there is a primary need to agree on a common (minimum level) legal text in order to go beyond the trade perspective and into technical details—and in only 2 years. The specifications for sustainable trade and sustainable fisheries cannot be defined without a mandate based on a first draft legal text. However, technical specifications are required to have an insight into the problem of IUU fishing. There is no reliable global list of vessels involved in IUU fishing. There is also no reliable infrastructure to share information about stocks, vessel certification and fishing licences. Every country (coastal and in-land) has responsibilities for inspections and control of their fish catch and products. Due to the lack of national registrations and international exchange of data, the ability to combat IUU fishing is weak.

14. The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development reported on its focus on how agreements can be designed to help sustainable development. This includes analysis, dialogue, research and capacity building. Its efforts on trade and IUU fishing include multilateral efforts (FAO, CITES, PSMA, CDS guidelines) and regional and unilateral measures to address IUU fishing. Unilateral certification systems, such as those created by the United States and the EU, create compliance difficulties for small-scale fisheries due to the proliferation of certification requirements. FLUX could be relevant in several ways: to monitor the vessels by flag states as well as their subsidies, and to help coastal states communicate reliable information with other WTO member states.

15. The European Commission DG MARE representative asserted that the EU has exclusive competence under the EU Common Fisheries Policy on FLUX implementation in the EU, as its 23 member states involved in fisheries are legally mandated to use it in the same way. Regarding the information architecture, any existing IT system can use FLUX standards. Vessels communicate with their flag state authority, which is further connected to other relevant authorities via the Central Node. Also, the Central Node can exchange data with other bodies, ports, and governments. The FLUX standards currently in place in the EU are vessel position and aggregated catches. Planning is underway to use FLUX to exchange vessel data, fishing activities, sales notes, licences and inspections. He emphasized the need for implementation documents, open source tools, and code list management. These free software tools will be shared with any interested party via FOCUS community. The EU also announced its willingness to make a voluntary contribution of 100,000 EUR to support the ToS work.

16. Some participants mentioned the need to provide implementation guidance and tools for countries, and the importance of getting support for electronic monitoring through FLUX. The interfacing between the national registration systems and the FLUX information exchange structure was also mentioned as an issue to be addressed by the ToS.

VII. Country Experiences (Agenda Item 5)

17. The Minister Plenipotentiary from **Romania** informed the meeting of the country's commitment to implement the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, their national legislation is being adapted to regulate the use of aquatic resources. Furthermore, a special department of sustainable development has been created under the Prime Minister's office. She also presented Romania's collaboration initiatives, one of which being joint inspections with Bulgaria to combat IUU. Romania submitted voluntary commitments to SDG 14 at the UN OCEAN Conference and other meetings which relate to climate change and sustainable fisheries through decent job creation and inclusiveness.

18. The representative from the Brazilian Ministry of Environment presented the Fisheries Document of Origin D.O.P. project, which is a system for monitoring and

tracking fisheries production and trade. Based on an existing project for timber products, the project is more complex as a greater diversity of products and actors are involved. The representative highlighted that such a monitoring tool is important, as small-scale fisheries are responsible for nearly 40% of Brazilian production. An import component will also be implemented at a later stage.

19. The Secretary of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies presented two pilot projects in support of sustainable fishery management, implemented in Uganda and Namibia, to highlight the need of implementing a transparent environment. She emphasized the importance of risk management, which is where FLUX is particularly helpful, as it helps in identifying the source of risk. The discussion following this intervention stressed the importance of risk analysis and the impact of non-compliance as core elements of work for the ToS.

VIII. Vision and Mission Statements (Agenda Item 6)

20. The draft vision and mission statements, summarizing the overall goals and methods by which to achieve them were discussed, amended and approved (*Decision 3*).

IX. Adoption of the Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries (Agenda Item 7)

21. The draft Programme of Work detailing the scope, objectives, activities, work areas, guiding principles, governance, and funding for the ToS was discussed, amended and approved (Decision 4).

X. Future work (Agenda Item 8)

22. Delegates and participants were invited to inform the Secretariat of their interest to join the Team of Specialists by written communication, by 12 February 2018.

XI. Other business (Agenda Item 9)

23. Delegates and participants were invited to attend a working meeting of the ToS during the thirty-first UN/CEFACT Forum on 23 to 27 April 2018.

XII. Adoption of decisions and the report of the first session (Agenda Item 10)

24. Delegates and participants were invited to adopt the report of the session (*Decision 5*)

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Team of specialists on sustainable fisheries

Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries 2018-2019

Summary

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Fisheries promotes, facilitates and supports the development and implementation of fishery data standards throughout the supply chain, which contribute to the sustainable and ecosystem-based management of marine and aquatic resources on a global scale. Such standards include the Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange, developed by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT FLUX).

This document presents the Programme of Work of the ToS for the period 2018-2019, and will be submitted to the twenty-fourth Plenary of UN/CEFACT for endorsement.

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I. Background

1. World fish stocks are being depleted by overfishing, destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. These activities not only threaten fish stocks, but also the coastal communities which rely on fisheries resources for economic survival and as a reliable source of protein. The importance of protecting fishery resources is recognized by the international community through Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

2. An essential step to attain effective and sustainable management of fishery resources is timely acquisition and exchange of information on fishing location, gear used, species and quantity caught, etc. Until now, fishing vessels have mainly used paper-based logbooks to record and exchange such information. To improve information acquisition and management, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has developed an open and global standard which allows the electronic exchange of fishery data.

3. The Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) provides a harmonized message standard which allows Fishery Management Organizations (FMOs) to automatically access electronic data from fishing vessels, such as vessel and trip identification, fishing operations (daily catch or haul-by-haul) and fishing data (catch area, species and quantity, date and time, and gear used). With this standard, FMOs around the world have, for the first time a tool which automates the collection and dissemination of fishery operational data needed for sustainable fishery management and for detecting and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In addition, the development of a reliable and up-to-date database on fish catch will improve the knowledge base for science-based fisheries management.

4. The UN/CEFACT FLUX standard was presented at the twenty-seventh UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, where experts from government, regional and international organizations, regional FMOs, industry, research, and control and enforcement authorities agreed on its importance as a standardized tool to exchange fisheries information in an effective, transparent and efficient manner. At this forum, it was decided that a community should be established to promote and support the implementation of the FLUX standard.

5 The Agricultural, Agri-Food and Fishery Programme Development Area of UN/CEFACT supported and approved this proposal and decided to create a Group of Experts from this community. The establishment of the Group of Experts, now referred to as the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Fisheries, was approved by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the UNECE in June 2017.

II. Introduction

6. The present document sets out the Programme of Work (PoW) of the UNECE ToS on Sustainable Fisheries for 2018-2019. UN/CEFACT is invited to adopt it at the twenty-fourth Plenary (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2018/22), and thereafter submit it to the EXCOM of the UNECE for approval.

III. Scope, Overall Objective, Activities, Work Areas

A. Scope

7. The activities of the PoW are open to the participation of all UN member States, fishery management organizations (FMOs) and other organizations involved in fishing activities and sustainable fisheries management. They support efforts which combat IUU fishing and sustain the livelihoods of those who depend on fisheries activities and resources.

8. They do so by promoting, facilitating and supporting the development and implementation of fishery data standards.

9. The PoW is linked to the Terms of Reference (ECE/EX/2017/L.9) as approved at the ninety-second meeting of the UNECE EXCOM (23 June 2017).

B. Objective

10. The overall objective of the ToS is to contribute to integrated maritime governance by promoting, facilitating and supporting the implementation of fishery data standards on a global scale. The ToS is expected to achieve its overall objective and implement the necessary activities on the assumption that:

(a) there is active participation and contribution by experts from governments, academia, civil society and the private sector during meetings of the ToS, and through other relevant networks;

(b) Governments are willing to engage in policy dialogue with key stakeholders for sustainable fishery management and take measures to implement policy recommendations and standards; and

(c) extra-budgetary resources for capacity-building, advisory services and field projects are adequate.

C. Activities

11. To achieve this goal the ToS will:

(a) Actively promote fishery data standards on policy and technical levels;

(b) Share experiences on the implementation of fishery data standards;

(c) Develop and share best practices on fishery data standards;

(d) Advise and assist on implementation issues concerning fishery data standards and how to relate to broader sustainability standards and certification;

(e) Propose changes to standards in the Agricultural, Agri-Food and Fishery PDA of UN/CEFACT.

D. Work areas

12. The Programme of Work is structured around the following work areas (WA):

- WA1: Policy dialogue and advice;

- WA2: Technical monitoring, assessment and guidance;
- WA3: Communication and outreach;
- WA4: Capacity-building and partnerships.

WA1: Policy dialogue and guidance

13. This Work Area involves active promotion and support of the implementation of fishery data standards on a policy level. This Work Area encompasses active engagement with policymakers on a global scale by contributing to events on fisheries and by engaging authorities and Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs). Activities of this Work Area are as follows:

- Participate in international Conferences and Fora (UN/CEFACT Forums, United Nations Ocean Conferences, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Fishery sessions, Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Board and Research Data Alliance meetings, etc.)
- Have meetings with Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs)
- Produce a paper on policy and legal issues related to regulations, coding and identifiers, data usage and data rights

WA2: Technical monitoring, assessment and advice

14. This Work Area facilitates and supports the development and implementation of fishery data standards on a technical level. This involves the development of handbooks and sharing information and best practices on technical implementation matters. Activities of this Work Area are as follows:

- Identify the needs for the development and implementation of fishery data standards
- Produce a questionnaire and conduct a survey on the need for advice and support to enhance and disseminate knowledge
- Draft a handbook on policy issues and technical implementation for fishery data standards (including an implementation document template)
- Produce FAQs on lessons learned from implementation of fishery data standards (e.g. European Union, Brazil, Thailand, etc.)
- Prepare a brochure on the interaction between UN/CEFACT FLUX and the open source FOCUS community[1], the implementation of vessels monitoring systems and other implemented sections of FLUX
- Draft a briefing of general information on what it takes to move to FLUX (regulatory, financial, IT requirements, etc.)
- Provide technical support on implementation requirements through an expert group
- Liaise with other relevant bodies (e.g. Research Data Alliance, Working Party of Fishery Statistics)

WA3: Communication and outreach

15. Activities of this Work Area are as follows:

[1] http://www.focus.fish/

- Establish a communication group
- Prepare and disseminate handbooks and implementation guides for the fishery data standards;
- Develop information on the work of the ToS and on fishery standards via policy briefs, press briefs, and flyers;
- Develop the website of the ToS, contribute to content design and maintenance, and use social media and videos, as appropriate;
- Participate in and contribute to relevant conferences, fora and events to disseminate information;
- Perform outreach activities beyond the promotion of fishery data standards to highlight the benefits of other standards/processes within sustainable fisheries, such as tracking and tracing, or statistics, and risk management;
- Produce a handbook on regulation, content structure such as code lists, and identifiers and data rights;
- Cooperate with the track and trace initiatives in the supply chain;
- Cooperate with standards setting and certification bodies on sustainable fishery management (e.g. FAIRTRADE[2], International Trade Centre (ITC) sustainable network)
- Raise funds for the activities laid out in the Programme of Work.

WA4: Capacity building and partnerships

16. Special attention will be given to small fishery communities which have neither the knowledge nor the financial means to adopt and implement fishery data standards.

17. By seeking partnerships, this Work Area will establish a solid foundation for the promotion and implementation of fishery data standards and work on sustainable fishery and combatting IUU fishing. It will also support of the implementation of relevant targets under SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources, and SDG 17 on partnerships.

18. By sharing knowledge and expertise through collaborations and partnerships, this Work Area will connect with fishery management organizations and fishery communities to exploit the benefits of collaboration and minimize the chance of working separately on the same issues.

19. Collaborations have already been established, and need to be further developed, with:

- The European Union represented by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)
- The Fisheries Open Source Community Software (FOCUS) [3]
- The World Animal Protection's Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- The FAO's Global Record on Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels[4]

[2] https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/

[3] http://www.focus.fish/

- World Trade Organization (WTO) work in relation to fishery subsidies contributing to IUU fishing, overfishing, and overcapacity (SDG 14.6)
- ITC work in support of sustainable fishery management (sustainability network)
- World Customs Organization, in relation to their work on customs issues for fishery trade
- FAO and the World Health Organization's work on health-related issues and CODEX Alimentarius[5]
- Branch organizations (e.g. International Sustainable Seafood Foundation) in supply chain and certification organizations (e.g. FAIRTRADE, Marine Stewardship Council)
- And relevant private sector companies.

IV. Guiding principles

20. The work of the ToS and the execution of this Programme of Work is guided by the following principles:

- Expert advice;
- Respect and mutual acceptance of any level of involvement or contribution;
- Full alignment of the work of the ToS with the Terms of Reference and Programme of Work.

V. Governance

21. The Team is guided by its Chair, which is supported by one or two Vice-Chairs.

22. It is the responsibility of the Chair that the objectives of the ToS are met and follow the Programme of Work.

23. Members of the ToS, as resources permit, undertake the substantive work. They undertake the preparation of substantive documentation for the meetings and the reports to be submitted to the annual UN/CEFACT Plenary.

24. The ToS is supported by the UNECE Secretariat.

25. Participation in the ToS is on a voluntary basis. All members of the ToS must register as experts of UN/CEFACT, in accordance with relevant procedures.

VI. Funding

26. Members of the ToS shall support its activities and are encouraged to find the necessary resources.

[4] http://www.fao.org/global-record

[5] http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/en/

Annex

Vision and Mission Statements of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries

1. The draft vision and mission statements for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Fisheries have been developed in line with the Terms of Reference and complement the Programme of Work of the ToS. The document has been reviewed and approved during the first session of the ToS, on 29-30 January 2018 and will be submitted for information at the twenty-fourth Plenary of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

I. Vision statement

2. The work of the ToS will be instrumental to achieve:

an effective and efficient exchange of information related to fishery activities and the subsequent supply chain, between all stakeholders,

to help reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing,

to support sustainable and ecosystem-based management of marine and aquatic resources on a global scale,

in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the United Nations Agenda 2030, on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

II. Mission statement

3. The ToS will contribute to integrated maritime governance by promoting, facilitating and supporting the development and implementation of fishery data standards[6] throughout the supply chain that contribute to the sustainable and ecosystem-based management of marine and aquatic resources on a global scale, notably through the UN/CEFACT standard Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX).

4. In a collaborative environment, together with other relevant standard setting bodies, the members of ToS will work to promote standards for exchange of information related to fishery activities, share experiences on development and implementation issues, and facilitate and support the implementation of these standards worldwide.

5. The ToS will give advice and conduct support activities regarding policy and technical implementation of fishery data standards. In particular, the ToS will prepare implementation guides and handbooks.

6. The ToS will contribute to sustainable fisheries and efforts to combat IUU fishing by promoting the timely acquisition of high quality fisheries data and sharing this data in an effective and efficient manner.

[6] Such Fishery data standards, which cover fishery activities and traceability throughout the supply chain, are distinct but complementary and synergistic with fishery statistics standards and fishery information standards set by other relevant bodies with global mandates such as the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS).

7. The ToS will provide a platform to fisheries management organizations worldwide to discuss, share and support the implementation of globally compatible fishery data standards as tools to improve sustainable fisheries management, combat IUU fishing, support livelihoods, and protect our oceans.

8. The ToS will function as a platform for:

- Policy consultation and dialogue
- Technical consultations for standards development and implementation
- Technical advisory services
- Exchange of best practices